August 8

Matthew 22:1-14

Here, But Not Really

1 And Jesus answered and
spake unto them again by
parables, and said,
2 The kingdom of heaven is like
unto a certain king, which
made a marriage for his son,
3 And sent forth his servants to
call them that were bidden to
the wedding: and they would
not come.
4 Again, he sent forth other
servants, saying, Tell them
which are bidden, Behold, I
have prepared my dinner: my
oxen and my fatlings are killed,

and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.
5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.
7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
8 Then saith he to his servants,

The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a

wedding garment:
12 And he saith unto him,
Friend, how camest thou in
hither not having a wedding
garment? And he was
speechless.
13 Then said the king to the
servants, Bind him hand and
foot, and take him away, and
cast him into outer darkness;
there shall be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.
14 For many are called,
but few are chosen.

What was the concern about the man not having on a wedding garment?

Was the issue that the man was “not dressed in righteousness”, as some say? We are told in this passage that “both bad and good” were

present, so more than one individual was unrighteous.

Why, then, would one person's clothing matter?

This parable is just that—an illustration for the purpose of revealing or

concealing.

Here, you have to step back and try to NOT match word-for-word. With parables, one frequently has to get an overall view, rather than a precise interpretation.

The thing to

understand
about the rejected
man is that though
everyone was
invited, there had
to be at least
some interest.

There are those who
only APPEAR TO
COME but
do so in a way that
is careless and

lackadaisical.
They are “here”
but not really here.
They are with God,
but not really
with God.

The man was readily recognized as being *clothed* in disrespect and disinterested. He just didn’t care—not even enough to dress

for the occasion.

That's the message.
For those who believe
everyone will be
with God, here's a
little heads up.

That, "I'm here,
aren't I? At least
I came..." *attitude*
does not work
with regard

to the kingdom
of heaven.

In the parable,
everyone was invited,
but not everyone was
accepted.

The account, as found
in Luke 14, further
describes those who
were called, but were
not chosen. However,

in this passage
of Matthew, we see
just one slice—one
factor that will
leave some
on the cutting
room floor who
never enter the
kingdom
of heaven.